

## Amendments to the Claims

### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (new). A switching device, comprising:

a first and a second arcing contact piece, lying axially opposite one another;

a first and a second rated current contact piece, disposed coaxially with respect to said arcing contact pieces, at least one of said rated current contact pieces having a hollow-cylindrical basic body with a front at an end facing a switching path of the switching device; and

an arc-resistant material covering said front, said arc-resistant material having an electroplating.

Claim 10 (new). The switching device according to claim 9, wherein said arc-resistant material is fixed to said hollow-cylindrical basic body in a form of a ring, so as to cover said front of said hollow-cylindrical basic body.

Claim 11 (new). The switching device according to claim 10, wherein said ring has a smaller radial wall thickness at a further end facing away from said switching path than at said end facing said switching path.

Claim 12 (new). The switching device according to claim 10, further comprising a bolt connection, said ring being pressed against said hollow-cylindrical basic body in a axial direction by said bolt connection.

Claim 13 (new). The switching device according to claim 9, further comprising an insulating body;

further comprising a pressure element; and

wherein said hollow-cylindrical basic body has a radial projection, against which said insulating body, is pressed axially by said pressure element.

Claim 14 (new). The switching device according to claim 13, wherein said hollow-cylindrical basic body has an inner casing side and a reduced outer diameter at said end facing said switching path, said radial projection is disposed on said inner casing side in a region of said reduced outer diameter.

Claim 15 (new). The switching device according to claim 11, wherein said ring has an enlarged radial wall thickness region and fixing devices in a region of said enlarged radial wall thickness region.

Claim 16 (new). The switching device according to claim 9,

further comprising contact-making points disposed between said first and second rated current contact pieces and lying axially in a region of said arc-resistant material in a switched-on state of the switching device.

Claim 17 (new). The switching device according to claim 13, wherein said insulating body is an insulating material nozzle.